Report on Human Rights in India criticised the Government of India for its record on human rights particularly in J and K. The report mentioned reprisal killings by security forces in Kashmir and the North East, human rights abuses by paramilitary forces deployed for internal security functions, unresolved disappearances, torture in custody as common abuses.

The report, however, also mentioned the greater responsiveness on the part of Government of India to allegations of police abuse, grant of permission to foreign journalists to travel freely in Kashmir, the virtual disapprearance of terrorist violence in 1994 in Punjab and the increasingly assertive role of the judiciary in Punjab during 1994 as positive developments. The report was appreciative of the functioning of the NHRC and cited examples of intervention by the NHRC leeding to remidial action.

The report also acknowledged that Kashmiri militants were guilty of serious human rights abuses including political killings, kidnappings, extortions and acts of random terror, and had issued threats against and imposed 'bans' on newspapers that refused to carry their press releases

(c) Government have noted the difference in perception on human rights between the US and India. It has been conveyed to the US that India has adequate inbuilt safeguards within the framework of a democratic system that is fully accountable to the people, responsive to their aspirations and protective of their fundamental rights through institutions such as an independent judiciary, a free press, the NHRC and NGOs that are active in the field

Pitiable condition of Indians in the Gulf countries

1294. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian citizens are living pitiable conditions in various Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The living condition of Indian nationals in various Gulf countries is generally satisfactory. In exceptional cases when a complaint about living conditions is received by our Missions, the matter is taken up with the concerned authorities at an appropriate level.

Expansion of UN security council

1295. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks are on among the UN member countries for the expansion of the United Nations Security Council; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The UN General Assembly's Working Group on the "Question of Equitable Representation on an increase in the membership of the Security Council" is continuing discussion on all aspects of the reform and restructuring of the Security Council.

Misbehaviour by Sri Lankan Police

1296 SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rotarians from Tamil Nadu, visiting Sri Lanka to attend Rotary conference, were taken away by the Sri Lankan Police in February, 1995; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?